



**Asia Harvest**

**2013**

**NEWSLETTERS**

*(Combined)*

# Asia Harvest



'Put in the Sickle, for the Harvest has Come!' (Mark 4:29)

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March 2013 - Newsletter #118



## 2013 Annual Report

Learning the Secret to Bearing Fruit

# Asia Harvest Annual Report

by Paul & Joy Hattaway

We thank God for the opportunity to share our Annual Report on the help Asia Harvest was able to provide throughout Asia in 2012.

Each year of following and serving the Lord Jesus Christ brings with it a new theme. Looking back at 2012, it seemed as if the Lord challenged us to get back to something fundamental to the Christian faith.

This fundamental teaching is crucial to all Christian life and service, yet many times when we have shared it with believers, both publicly and privately, it is apparent that it has become a highly unpopular teaching.

You see, nothing has changed since Jesus told His disciples, ***“Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me”*** (John 12:24-26).

The message of dying to self has always been, and will always be rejected and disdained by the majority of people in our culture. Unfortunately it even seems to be rejected by the majority of Christians these days. From infancy we are taught lies which go directly against the words of Jesus. We are taught to push ourselves forward, to be confident in our own abilities, and we are told “you can be anything you want to be.”

The result is a church with many self-promoting and fleshly members, but the truth of the words of Jesus continue to ring down through the ages: ***“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me”*** (Luke 9:23). What exactly did Jesus mean when He said these powerful words?

Two thousand years ago when Jesus said these words there was no confusion at all about what He meant. The cross was not meant to be a fashion accessory to hang on a necklace. To die on a Roman cross was the most excruciating and barbaric form of punishment known to mankind. And Jesus was telling people that if they want to follow Him, they had to be willing to be tortured and to die on a cross.



We are thankful that Jesus never minced His words; He always told us the truth. The fact is that if we want to truly know and serve God, we have to give everything to Him. He wants to possess our hearts, our time, our dreams and our finances. Jesus wants our lives to become so intertwined with His life that when people look at us, they will see a reflection of Jesus.

This is not an easy teaching, but it is truth. The 6th chapter of the Gospel of John starts with the account of Jesus miraculously feeding the 5,000 men, plus women and children. They loved to hear His stories and see the miracles. Later on in the same chapter, however, after Jesus taught on the cost of following Him, the Bible records, ***“On hearing it, many of his disciples said, ‘This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it? ... From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him”*** (John 6:60, 66).

Dear friends, as we travel to various parts of the world we see that Christians everywhere are under great pressure. Their marriages are under pressure, their finances are struggling, and their churches are facing great difficulties.

God is again asking His people to be prepared to die for Jesus. I have often heard preachers say, “Before you will be ready to die for Jesus you have to be prepared to live for Him.” We think the other way around is more true, ***if we want to truly live for Jesus, we have to first be prepared to die for Him***. Only when we lose our lives will we gain eternal life and be fit for the King’s service.

God is not looking for people with natural abilities and the “gift of the gab” to do His work. He is looking for corpses, people who are dead to themselves and their own fleshly desires and ambitions. When He finds such a person, He infuses His life into them and can use them. This is the secret to bearing good fruit for God.

A dead person doesn’t care about their reputation. A corpse doesn’t argue or set conditions on God. Peter explained that ***“since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin. As a result, they do not live the rest of their earthly lives for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God”*** (1 Peter 4:1-2).

This is not a new teaching. Down through the centuries God’s people have faced the same struggle to deny themselves and take up their cross (be willing to die for their faith) and follow Him.

Today there is much dangerous false teaching in the church, which leads to deception and a diluted Christian witness. John ‘Praying’ Hyde, an American missionary to India, once wrote, *“Self must not only be dead, but buried out of sight, for the stench of the unburied self-life will frighten souls away from Jesus.”* We encourage you to avoid any teaching which puffs up your pride and ensures that you do not need to live a holy life in fear and reverence.



In 2012 the Lord again challenged us to get back to the basics, and be willing to die for Him. Not only has God called us to such a life, but those we serve on the frontlines in Asia are also counting the cost of following Jesus every day.

Several months ago one of the believers we serve in India, a 42-year old father of four named Bijaydan Nag, was attacked by Hindus armed with swords and knives. They hacked him to pieces because of his love for Jesus Christ. Few people have ever heard of Bijaydan Nag, but he is safely in heaven, numbered among those who endured faithfully to the end. Please pray for his wife and children.

In the same area a 32-year old mother of three named Rupai heard the Gospel and became a disciple of Jesus. Her husband, a Hindu, was infuriated by her new faith and beat her mercilessly. She was hauled before the whole community and threatened with dire consequences if she would not denounce Christ. She calmly and boldly proclaimed, ***"I will not deny Jesus Christ, even if my husband leaves me and I have no provision for my daily needs. Jesus is the True Lord and Savior, not only for me but for all the people of the world. Jesus came to save mankind, and until my last breath I will continue to follow Him. Even if you kill me, I will continue to believe in Jesus Christ."*** She has been kicked out of her home and we have helped provide some of her daily needs through the ministry we partner with there.

It is a great privilege for us to work with and serve believers like Rupai and many others scattered throughout Asia.

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*It is with joy and gratitude that we present our Annual Report for 2012. It is a great privilege to have served the Lord Jesus in Asia for another year, and we have been privileged to witness many people come to know Him for the first time through the witness of our co-workers. Multitudes of believers have been strengthened in their faith after receiving Bibles through our Bible projects, and hundreds of Asian evangelists we support have led thousands of people to faith in Jesus Christ, among dozens of remote unreached people groups. Seven hundred and forty injured or ill Chinese church leaders have been supported through the Living Martyr's fund, and 1,361 children in Vietnam received free surgeries through Project Smile.*

*Our strategy has always been to operate with as few overhead expenses as possible, so that more resources get to the hands of the frontline workers of God's kingdom—the many Asian Christians whom we are privileged to assist and serve.*

*We are thankful for each person who prayed for us and our work, who encouraged us, or provided support last year. In 2011 our projects helped advance the Gospel in China, Vietnam, Laos, India, Japan, North Korea, Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Pakistan, Iraq, and Bangladesh.*

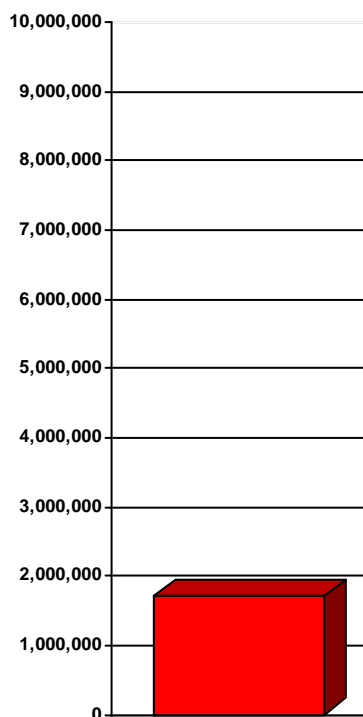
# CHINA BIBLE PRINTING

## *Equipping China's Christians with God's Word*

We are thankful to the many people who pray and give so that Christians in China will have access to God's Word. Since 2000, we have supplied 6.6 million Bibles to the rural house churches in China, with **1,711,068** printed and distributed in 2012 alone. This figure represents **4,688 Bibles every day** throughout the year, **196 each hour**, or **one every 18 seconds!** Yet the need for God's Word remains great, especially in rural areas where the revival is burning brightest. One thankful Christian recently wrote from Zhejiang Province:

"Words cannot express the gratitude our family feels for the Bible you provided for us. We treasure it and read it every day. Reading the words of our Lord makes our hearts overflow with joy. For so many years we longed to know the truth, and now we understand more every day and our faith is becoming stronger. God bless you for your sacrificing and giving so that we can know the truth!"

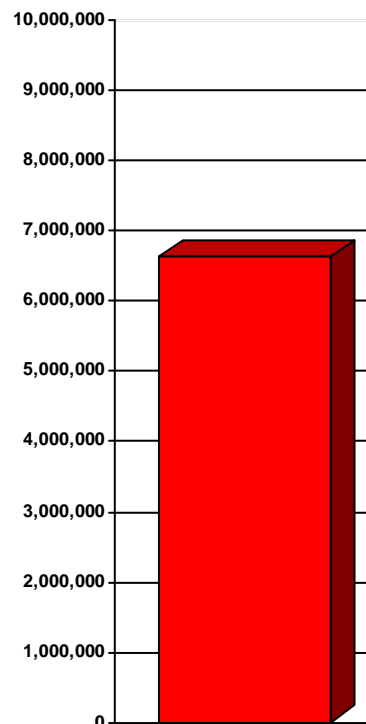
2012 Bibles  
printed: 1,711,068



There remains a critical shortage of Bibles in China because of the massive growth of the church in rural areas. Tens of millions of Christians are still without God's Word. We are partnering with house church networks in China in a long-term goal to print Bibles for these new believers. They are distributed for free to all parts of China, equipping the believers and helping add fuel to the fires of revival that are burning throughout the world's largest nation.

Each Bible costs just \$1.80 to print and deliver.

Total Bibles since  
2000: 6,628,488



# SOUTHEAST ASIA BIBLE FUND

*Current Total: 318,037 Bibles printed in 46 different languages.  
Each Bible costs an average of \$2.70 to print and deliver.*

Asian countries like Vietnam, Laos, India and Myanmar (Burma) contain hundreds of different tribes, many of which had full Bibles or New Testaments translated into their languages in the past. In some cases, these tribal believers have been deprived access to the Scriptures for decades and their need for God's Word is great.

Last year we continued putting God's Word into the hands of as many believers as possible through the Southeast Asia Bible fund. Recent completed projects include 5,000 Jarai Bibles for Vietnam; 27,690 Arabic Bibles for Iraq, 2,500 Sqaw Karen Bibles (Myanmar), 5,000 Burmese Bibles, and some very specific projects, such as several hundred Bibles for the Tausug and Sama people of the southern Philippines. The Lord is always bringing new projects to our attention. Please pray for the Southeast Asia Bible fund and all those involved with providing God's Word to these precious tribes.



***Our coworkers do whatever  
it takes to deliver God's  
Word to the ethnic groups of  
Asia, by trains, trucks,  
backpacks or private cars.***



# ASIAN WORKERS' FUND

*Partnering with Pioneer Asian Evangelists*

*Because of your prayers and partnership, in 2012 we were able to support 359 Asian church-planting missionaries — working among 172 unreached tribes and people groups.*

*Believers  
from a tribal  
group in  
southwest  
China who  
were led to  
Jesus by one  
of the  
evangelists  
we support  
through the  
Asian  
Workers'  
fund.*



The Asian Workers' fund provides support to evangelists in Asia who are involved with strategic and ground-breaking work in areas that have never had a Gospel witness before. We work alongside Asian Christian leaders, helping strengthen their ministries and providing support to those who are serving God wholeheartedly.

The fruit of their work can be clearly seen as thousands of people found faith in Jesus Christ last year, with dozens of churches established in some of the darkest parts of Asia. They have encountered many hardships and persecutions, but have persevered and are now seeing breakthroughs among certain people groups after years of faithfully planting seed.

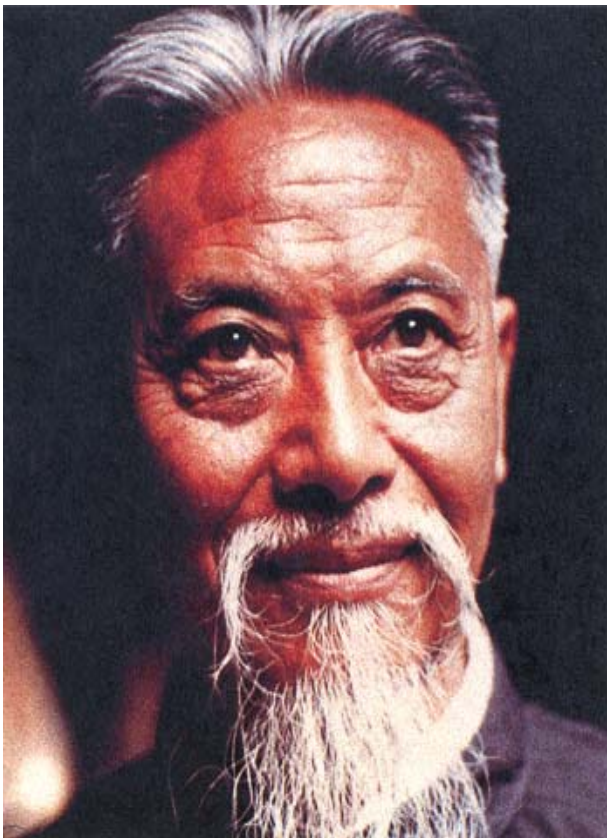
This work is constantly expanding and new workers are being recruited. You can help support one or more of these workers with a gift of **\$25 per month each**. A laminated worker's prayer card is sent to every supporter of this project.

We believe God wants to greatly expand this project, and we hope to be supporting workers among more than 500 unreached people groups in the not-too-distant future. Please pray for the Lord to provide the right workers, connections and resources for this to become a reality.

# CHINA LIVING MARTYRS

## *Supporting Christians disabled by Persecution*

*Because of your prayers and support we were able to help 740 living martyrs throughout 2012. This strategic project has been a tremendous blessing to the Church in China.*



*A martyr has been defined as “a Christian who chooses to suffer death rather than deny Christ or His work... One who sacrifices something very important to further the Kingdom of God and endures great suffering for Christian witness.”*

In China today, many house church Christians are still beaten and persecuted because of their faith. House church leaders have provided us with lists of hundreds of Christian leaders who have been disabled or who face long-term illness or injury as a result of persecution and imprisonment.

The **China Living Martyrs Fund** assists many pastors and evangelists who are now unable to work because of persecution. They and their families face extreme

poverty and hardship. The families of imprisoned Christians are also supported. A house church leader wrote, “The Martyrs’ fund is very important. It helps many who are not able to support their families because they are in prison or disabled and unable to work. It also helps the Church provide for the families of martyrs. Many of them have no other means of income.”

You can support one or more of these living martyrs with a gift of **\$35 per month each**. A prayer card is sent to every supporter of this project, with information about a living martyr to help you pray for him and his family.

# PROJECT SMILE

## Helping Children in Vietnam

*Your generous gifts helped bring a smile to the faces of 1,361 children in Vietnam in 2012 (11,787 since 1999).*

*Project Smile helps children from poor families in Vietnam who were born with cleft-palate or cleft-lip disabilities, various forms of cancer, burns, club-feet, and other deformities. Many lives continue to be dramatically changed by this project. We recently received the following testimony from our coworkers in Vietnam:*

One father who brought his little boy to us for surgery shared how he had heard of the program through a radio broadcast. He could hardly contain his excitement. His dream of one day providing the surgery for his son was now possible.

It was not a simple matter for him to get to the registration point. It took four days walking over mountainous terrain, just to get to the nearest town. There were no motels on his journey, so each evening he fashioned small shelters alongside the dirt track, where they shared their meagre food supply.

Through the night he would hold his small son closely, keeping him as warm as possible in the cool mountain air. Their small fire kept the wild animals at bay. It was an exhausting journey, for once they arrived at the registration area they still had another 24 hours on a rickety old bus to bring them to the hospital.

In the days that followed the surgery, his son's face was transformed, and a smile gradually replaced the sadness.

After a week at the hospital they prepared to leave. This meant another 24 hours north on the old bus, and another four days walking to reach their village.

We can but imagine as he walked those remaining miles, the quickening of his step, and the excitement that would sweep over the village when at last they were home, and a little boy was no longer treated as a reject, but a child beaming with life and hope.

*It costs just \$60 to help put a smile on the face of a child in Vietnam through Project Smile. Your prayers and support make a great difference to this boy and many others like him.*





# BACK TO JERUSALEM

## *Equipping Chinese Christians to serve as Missionaries*

We continue to serve the Chinese Church as they train and send cross-cultural missionaries to unreached people groups in Asia and the Middle East. This God-given vision to preach the Gospel to the unreached world is known in China as “Back to Jerusalem.”

Despite many Western Christians who mistakenly believe the Great Commission is basically completed, the goal of the Back to Jerusalem movement is to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the 4,836 remaining unreached tribes and ethnic groups in Asia. Together these groups number 2.17 billion people, or almost one-third of the entire population of the world.

There are many ways we support this vision. In 2012 these included providing support to Chinese missionaries working in Muslim and Buddhist nations, printing evangelistic literature in various languages, and funding training centers where new workers are taught foreign languages and cross-cultural skills. Depending on their intended field of work, they learn how to effectively reach Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists.

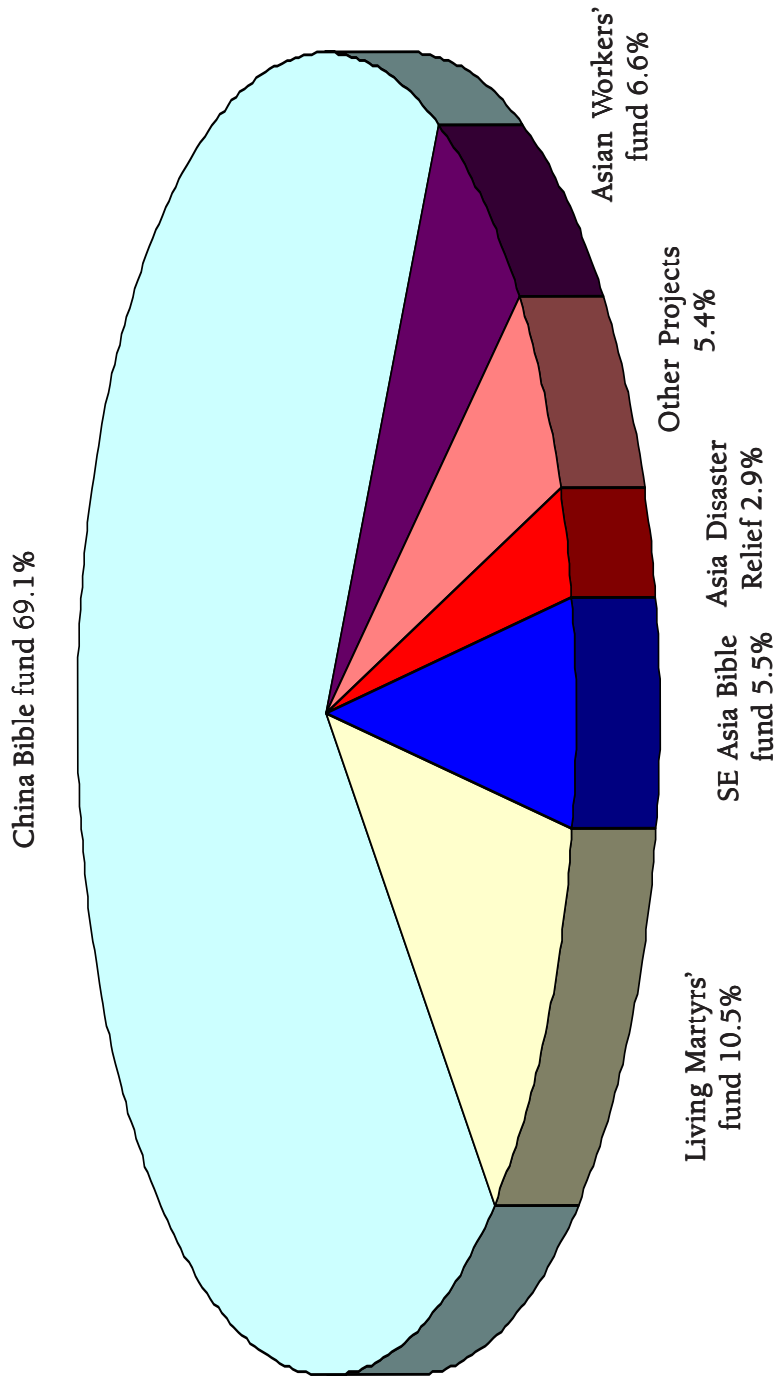
Support for our Back to Jerusalem project assists in other practical ways such as purchasing



motorbikes or bicycles for evangelists who serve in remote areas, funding Bibles to the most persecuted Christians in the world (North Korea), and other strategic initiatives we are not permitted to share publicly. Please pray the Chinese Church will continue to take up the challenge to spread the light of Jesus Christ to the darkest corners of the earth.

***“And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ” (2 Corinthians 4:3-6).***

# Asia Harvest Projects Supported in 2012





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## Why Jesus Has Yet to Return

The Most Important Thing on God's Heart Today

# From the Front Lines

by Paul & Joy Hattaway

*“When I look at the younger generation, I despair for the future of civilization.”*

*“The world is passing through troublesome times. The young people of today think of nothing but themselves. They have no reverence for parents or old age. They are impatient of all restraint and they talk as though they know everything and what passes as wisdom to us is foolishness to them. As for the girls they are immodest and unwomanly in speech, behavior and dress.”*

Can you guess who said the two quotes above? Were they spoken by a television pundit or a disgruntled church leader, upset at where things are heading in the world today?

It may surprise you to learn that the first quote is from Aristotle in about 300 BC, and the second quote is from Peter the Monk in the year 1274!

Our point in using these ancient quotes is that as followers of Jesus Christ we need to be careful not to allow ourselves to slump into despondency, fear and inactivity. For millennia God's people have been grieved by the decay of the communities they live in. Each new generation tends to think they have it worse than ever before, but Solomon observed, **“What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun”** (Ecclesiastes 1:9). The Bible says that 4,000 years ago Lot was **“distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)”** (2 Peter 2:7-8).

We should not be surprised if the world is falling to pieces around us. That is what this world system is destined to do, because they do not know the Living God. As believers we are told to **“Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation. Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life”** (Philippians 2:14-16).

Recently we have spoken with Christians from a variety of countries and backgrounds. Many feel deeply troubled about the state of their nations, the economy, debt, corrupt governments, and most of all the moral decay spreading throughout their societies. Many believers we met seem fixated on the problems around them. While many of these problems are real, they can easily be used by Satan to take a Christian's focus away from where it should be.

As disciples of Jesus we must look upward and outward, not inward. If we become insular we will die. The Dead Sea holds a great lesson for us. Nothing lives in the Dead Sea except bacteria and other organisms. Yet there are 153 rivers and streams of fresh water flowing into it, including the Jordan River. All that fresh water and life flows into it and dies, because it has nowhere to go. The Dead Sea doesn't have a single outlet. This is a lesson for every denomination, church, and Christian. Without an active and effective outlet for your faith you too will become stagnant and die.

As scary as the world may appear, it is not time for Christians to head for the hills or their bomb shelters! To do so is to play into the hands of the devil, who wants the followers of Jesus to think the job is done, and that their own needs and self-preservation are all-important. To the contrary, Jesus told His followers: ***"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven"*** (Matthew 5:14-16).

Jesus didn't say we should take care of our own needs, security and happiness first. No! Instead He said we must ***"seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well"*** (Matthew 6:33).

The focus for believers should never change. Firstly we should be committed to know, love, and obey God and His Word. Secondly we must focus on what God is focused on—reaching the unreached nations of the world and bringing in the harvest.

Only then will the Lamb of God receive the inheritance of the nations for which He was slain! Only then will the seventh angel sound his trumpet in heaven, and proclaim, ***"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever"*** (Revelation 11:15).

"Thank you for the Asia Harvest annual report and the encouragement for the teaching on fruitfulness. We trust the Gardener for our fruitfulness as we are still being pruned, dug and dunged on but we know it will lead to our fruitfulness.

Without fail your magazine brings encouragement, hope and truth and I so look forward to it. A.W. Tozer wrote, 'To be crucified means, first, the man on the cross is facing only one direction; second, he is not going back; and third, he has no further plans of his own.'

God bless you as you travel and stay with health and safekeeping in Jesus' Mighty Name." — Kate, Australia

***Cover picture: Three hard-working Chhetri women in Nepal. The Chhetri are one of the 187 people groups we are reaching through the Asian Workers' fund.***



# Why Jesus Has Yet to Return

What is the most important thing on God's heart today?

I think if we sat down with a dozen Christians and asked them this question we might receive a dozen different answers.

All Christians understand that Jesus conquered the grave and completed the incredible task He came to do. He has created a Way for mankind to come back into relationship with God.

That is not the end of the story however! Strangely, many preachers fail to mention that God's plan on the earth is still unfolding. It is the reason why Jesus has not yet returned. The Bible says that ***"Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of Gentiles has come in"*** (Romans 11:25).

God is so pleased with the sacrifice of His beloved Son that He wants the whole world to know about it. He wants every representation of the human race to hear and have the chance to accept or reject His Son's sacrifice for their sins.

There are numerous end-time preachers today, but for some reason many of them seem to neglect mentioning the final sign Jesus said would take place before His return to the earth: ***"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole***

***world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end shall come"*** (Matthew 24:14).

This is what we believe is the most important thing on God's heart today!

God is bringing in the Harvest, but only after "the full number of Gentiles has come in" will He call an end to this world in its present form!

Uygur



## Defining the Task

We would like to share something crucial for all Christians to understand. Without it, we will be confused about the state of the harvest, and therefore God's plans in the world today. Have you been led to believe that God's harvest has basically already been brought in, and the task of winning the nations has been completed?

The first thing we must understand is just how God measures the harvest. The Bible defines the task quite clearly. In Revelation 5:6-10 we are given a glimpse to a future time when the harvest has been fully gathered:

***"Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders.... He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne.... And they sang a new song, saying: 'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with***

*your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."*

This is exciting news! We are told there will be worshippers of Jesus around the throne from **"every tribe and language and people and nation."**

Two chapters later the Apostle John saw a new vision and wrote, **"I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: 'Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb'"** (Revelation 7:9-10).

Once again we have the words **"every nation, tribe, people and language."** Just to make it clear, God mentioned His definition of the harvest one more time in Revelation 14:6.

God always completes things perfectly. He created the first divisions among the human race back at the Tower of Babel, splitting people into **"clans and languages, in their territories and nations.... From these the nations spread out over the earth after the flood"** (Genesis 10:31-32).

The whole Bible from Genesis to Revelation

carries two main themes. The first is the redemptive story of Jesus.

The second main theme seems to have been lost to many preachers today however. It is rarely mentioned. This is sad and tragic! It seems that Satan has done a great job hiding this truth from so many millions of Christians today.

The second main theme of the Bible is God's plan to reach the nations!

Without knowing this, a Christian's life will lack a key ingredient and sense of purpose.

Jesus didn't die on the cross just to give you salvation. He died to save *the nations*!

God doesn't bless you and me just so we can be happy. He blesses us so we can reach the nations!

### What are 'Nations'?

This is a key question. In the English language the word 'nation' has become largely synonymous with the word 'country' but these are not the same thing.

When we watch the news we hear about the "nation of India," or the "nation of Great Britain." This is not what the Bible means when it talks about "nations".

In both the Hebrew language of the Old Testament and the Greek of the New Testament, the word translated "nation" in our English Bibles means



something quite different than a political country. The Greek word is “ethnae,” from where we get our word “ethnic.”

When you read the word “nations” in the Bible, instead of thinking about countries, you should think “ethnic groups.”

If Jesus meant “countries” when He said, ***“this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end shall come”*** (Matthew 24:14), then He should have already returned.

There are approximately 240 countries in the world today. Every one of them already has a Christian remnant of some description, a group of faithful, blood-bought followers of Jesus Christ.

The plan of God was never just to reach every country. It is to reach every ethnic group, language, tribe and people group.

Only when this has happened will the Lord Jesus have received the reward He deserves for His matchless sacrifice. God once told His Son, ***“Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of your earth your possession”*** (Psalm 2:8). Asaph wrote, ***“Rise up, O God, judge the earth, for all the nations are your inheritance”*** (Psalm 82:8).

Dear friends, do not be deceived into thinking the work of the Gospel is almost done. The nations (ethnic groups) are not yet all the inheritance of Jesus. There is much work to be done!



There are Christians who have sat on their backside for decades while they wait for the Lord to return. They were taught the harvest has been brought in and there is nothing else to do. Tragically, their lives have frittered away and they have done nothing for the Lord.

## The State of the Harvest Today

Two thousand years after Jesus commanded His followers to take the Good News into all the world, how much progress do you think we have made?

The best source for information about the world’s “tribes, languages, peoples and nations” is undoubtedly the Joshua Project ([www.joshuaproject.net](http://www.joshuaproject.net)).

Decades of research has resulted in them defining 16,586 people groups throughout the world today.

They have classified an “unreached” group to mean any group that is less than 2% Christian.

Using this definition, **how many of these 16,586 people groups do you think remain to be properly “reached” by the Gospel of Jesus?**

The answer may shock you.

**After 2,000 years there are still 7,165 unreached people groups in the world today!**

From this point of view, the Church is just past the half way mark toward the

goal.

No wonder the Lord Jesus has not yet returned!

We are glad God has called us to Asia, because 72% of all the remaining unreached groups in the world are found there.

Hundreds of millions of Asians are waiting to hear the Name of Jesus for the first time in their lives. Not only individual people, but whole tribes and ethnic groups (nations) remain totally unevangelized.

We and our co-workers regularly come across people who have no clue of God's plan of salvation. Even in China there are multitudes who have never heard of Jesus. They ask us questions like, "Does he live in your country?" when we first tell them His Name.

Consider the following table about the state of Christianity in Asia. I think you will agree there remains much work to do....

| <u>Region</u>        | <u>People Groups</u> | <u>Unreached Groups</u> |
|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Central Asia         | 1,012                | 837                     |
| Northeast Asia       | 655                  | 489                     |
| Southeast Asia       | 1,808                | 744                     |
| South Asia           | 3,411                | 3,117                   |
| <b><u>Totals</u></b> | <b><u>6,886</u></b>  | <b><u>5,187</u></b>     |

Perhaps you have never been presented with information like this before and it is a surprise to you.

When God views China, he doesn't see one 'nation,' but He sees 513 distinct "ethnae," most of which have their own language and culture. The Lord desires to redeem people

from the 11 million Turkic-speaking Uygur people who inhabit northwest China. He also desires to save people from the small Bonan nation, numbering just 11,000 people in Gansu Province.

India remains the greatest challenge to the Gospel in the world today. It is home to 2,599 distinct nations, 2,365 (91%) of which remain unreached by the Gospel. Who will reach the 300,000 **Bhatta** nation of Orissa, or the tiny **Muriya** tribe who number less than 100 people?

Does God care if someone reaches the Muriya people? Are they too small to worry about?

Not at all! Jesus died for the Muriya. They are a distinct nation who will one day have believers worshipping the Lamb around His throne.

## An Opportunity to be Involved

From the time we first started serving in Asia in 1988, the unreached nations have been our focus. Everything we do at Asia Harvest has the end goal of glorifying the Name of Jesus among the unreached tribes and ethnic groups of Asia.

All of our projects are geared towards this end, but the **Asian Workers' Fund** is our primary method for reaching the lost in Asia and fulfilling the Great Commission.

We have no desire to send Western missionaries into these nations. Although Westerners have a key supporting role, there is a much better way to get the job done.

At the moment we are supporting 381 Asian missionaries, serving among 187 unreached ethnic groups. We are



privileged to already support workers among all four groups we mentioned: the Uygur and Bonan of China, and the Bhattra and Muriya of India (pictures of people from these four nations are scattered throughout this newsletter).

We are thankful for all of the Asian missionaries and the wonderful work they are doing. We are also thankful for those who have prayed for them and given generously so that they are able to go.

As we sought the Lord at the end of last year, we sensed He was challenging us to increase our focus for the unreached. Since then we have started new partnerships with other organizations to be more effective.

Our next goal is to support Asian workers among 500 different unreached groups. To achieve this we need a miracle, but we know our Lord is very good at working miracles!

Please pray with us. Ask God to expand the Asian Workers' fund, and to connect us with more Asian missionaries with a vision to reach these groups. Please also pray for an increase in provision.

In coming newsletters we plan to continue with this emphasis, because we believe it is the emphasis of God's heart.

A tremendous opportunity exists for you to be part of this vision! **Would you, your family or your church consider supporting one or more of these faithful Asian evangelists?**



A monthly donation of \$25 (\$300 per year) makes a tremendous difference in their lives. It allows them to carry out the work God has called them to.

We will send a prayer card of a worker to each regular supporter, and a written update of their progress every six months.

Please note that most of the workers need more than \$25 per month, depending on their location and the kind of work they are called to do. We have set the standard unit of support at \$25 per worker, which means your gift is joined together with one or more others to provide the full amount of help we give each worker.

If a person gives an amount of \$100 per month for example, we apply \$25 to four different workers and send that person four different prayer cards.

We have found that structuring the Asian Workers' fund this way provides a safeguard for the workers. If a donor is unable to continue with their support we can reallocate that portion to a new donor, and the missionary can carry on with their work unhindered.

Few of us can go where they go, but each of us can partake in the joy of their reward.

The Lord Jesus is waiting for His full inheritance to come in, and it is a great privilege to be able to play a part in seeing this happen as we serve the Church in Asia together.

## Latest News

Because of a lack of space in our newsletters, we are unable to mention many of the activities the Lord has us doing throughout Asia. We would like to share something important that happened recently, and ask for your prayers. On March 9 a mob of Muslims attacked more than 2,000 Christians from the Joseph Colony, a Christian community in the large city of Lahore, Pakistan. The attackers torched the



Christians' homes, seized their possessions, and burned their Bibles. Those who were slow to flee were severely beaten, including the elderly and children.

This incident was scarcely reported, and most Christians remain completely unaware it happened.

Our persecuted Christian brothers and sisters have been left destitute and traumatized. We provided an initial \$10,000 to help them with basic necessities, food and shelter, and to provide new Bibles to the leaders of each family. Please pray earnestly for these 2,000 Christians. If you would like to assist them financially please add a note "Pakistan Persecution." 100% of support received will be given directly to the believers from the Joseph Colony.



## Pray for Saeed

If you have visited our website in recent months, or you are on our email list, you will be aware that a close friend of our ministry, Saeed Abedini, was arrested in Iran and has been sentenced to 8 years in the notorious Evin Prison. His crime? He loves Jesus Christ.

Saeed was born in Iran but is now a US citizen. He has a remarkable testimony having converted from Islam to Christ. We were collaborating with Saeed to write his

biography when he was dragged from a bus in Iran last September while visiting his family and was charged with "endangering the national security of Iran."

Since then thousands of Christians have started praying for him and his family. His situation is changing daily, so we have set up a special page on our website ([www.asiaharvest.org](http://www.asiaharvest.org)) with regular updates on Saeed. Please pray for Saeed, and for his wife Naghmeh and two children who remain in America.

## ASIAN WORKERS' FUND

*Thanks to your support we are currently able to support 381 Asian evangelists working among 187 unreached tribes and ethnic groups.*



The **Asian Workers Fund** assists church-planting evangelists who are involved in strategic ministry in Asia. These servants of the Lord have committed their whole lives to the Gospel but are hindered by lack of finances. We only support evangelists/missionaries and not pastors, as we believe pastors should be supported by the flocks they shepherd. Please pray about whether you or your church could help support these dedicated workers, at **\$25 per month** each. A prayer card and occasional worker updates are sent to all regular donors.

## CHINA BIBLE PRINTING

*Current Total: 6,816,822 Bibles printed and delivered.*



We are partnering with house churches in China in a long-term project to provide Bibles for Christians. We receive countless requests for God's Word from church leaders throughout the country. These Bibles are distributed free of charge, equipping the believers and helping add fuel to the fires of revival in China. **Each full Bible costs just \$1.80 to print and deliver.**

**A generous donor has recently given a "dollar for dollar" matching grant to Asia Harvest. For a period of time each donation we receive for Bibles will be doubled, so that two new Bibles will be provided instead of one!**

## SOUTHEAST ASIA BIBLE FUND

*Current Total: 325,961 Bibles printed in 47 languages*



The Communist nations of Laos and Vietnam are home to more than 250 different tribes, dozens of which had full Bibles or New Testaments translated into their languages prior to the arrival of Communism in 1975. Since then, these believers have been deprived of Bibles by the authorities. We are also providing God's Word to tribes in Myanmar (Burma), Cambodia, and other Southeast and South Asian nations as the need arises. **Each Bible costs \$2.70 to print and deliver.**

## LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

*Because of your partnership we are supporting 744 living martyrs.*



"A martyr is a Christian who chooses to suffer death rather than deny Christ or His work... One who sacrifices something very important to further the Kingdom of God and endures great suffering for Christian witness." (The Voice of the Martyrs)

The **Living Martyrs Fund** assists pastors and evangelists in China and Vietnam who are unable to work because of injuries or illness caused by persecution. They and their families face extreme poverty and hardship. Through a gift of **\$35 per month** you can help support one of these living martyrs. A prayer card is sent to every supporter of this project.

## PROJECT SMILE



*Your generous gifts have so far helped bring a smile to the faces of 12,387 children in Vietnam.*

**Project Smile** helps children from poor families in Vietnam who were born with disabilities such as cleft palates, cleft lips and club feet, as well as others who need operations for burns, cancerous growths and other conditions. The cost of helping a child varies depending on the kind of surgery required, but each gift received of **\$60 changes a child's life**. A laminated prayer card of a child helped through Project Smile is sent to all donors.

## ASIA DISASTER RELIEF FUND



*Transforming lives from ashes to beauty with God's love.*

Over the years Asia Harvest has provided relief assistance to the victims of natural disasters such as the earthquake in China and cyclone in Myanmar (Burma); the Tsunamis of Southeast Asia and Japan, and a host of other disasters in India, Afghanistan, Vietnam, and elsewhere. In addition to providing aid through medicine, tents, blankets, food and water, rebuilding homes etc., the Christians we partner with take every opportunity to share the Gospel, and thousands of people have come to know Jesus Christ. This long-term fund helps us respond immediately whenever a disaster strikes.





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# Asia Harvest



'Put in the Sickle, for the Harvest has Come!' (Mark 4:29)

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August 2013 - Newsletter #120



**A Personal Testimony:  
The Man with Half a Brain**

# The Man with Half a Brain

by Paul Hattaway

We would like to take a detour from our regular Asia Harvest newsletters by sharing a personal testimony. If you are on our e-mail contact list you will probably be aware of some of what we will share. For many others, however, this will be the first you are aware of Paul's experiences over the past few months. We hope you will be encouraged...

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*"We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you" (2 Corinthians 4:8-12).*

On Wednesday, May 29, I went to bed feeling normal. I enjoyed a good night's sleep, but the next morning I awoke feeling very dizzy. I tried to get up but was unable to stand or walk. My left hand and arm were as cold as a block of ice so I knew something seriously bad was happening. My wife called for an ambulance and I was driven two and a half hours to a hospital in another town. Upon arrival I was wheeled inside on a bed and given a CT scan. After a while a doctor came in with the sombre news: "Mr. Hattaway, you have had a massive stroke. I'm sorry to tell you that half your brain has died. The left side of your body is paralyzed."

One of the first thoughts I had after hearing this grim diagnosis was: "This is not a problem for Jesus! One hundred percent of Lazarus' brain was dead, but the Lord completely healed him and raised him up! I knew that naturally speaking my situation was dire, but Jesus operates on a super-natural level, and He said, **"What is impossible with man is possible with God"** (Luke 18:27).

Those who know me best know that I try to see the funny side of every situation. I motioned for the doctor to come closer and told him, "Don't worry. If I only have half a brain left, I figure that still gives me an advantage over a lot of people!"

## Facing my Mortality

***“Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account” (Hebrews 4:13).***

The most difficult moment for me was the initial long ambulance ride. Joy and our two sons followed in a car, not knowing if I was dead or alive. During that time two or three thoughts dominated my mind.

Firstly, more than ever I was aware how fragile and fleeting our lives are. Most people live as though they will never die, not realizing that we are all just a heart-beat, blood-clot or an accident away from standing face to face before our Judge and Creator.

Later, after more tests and scans, I was told my stroke was likely caused by a tiny blood clot—perhaps as small as a pin-head—that had formed elsewhere in my body. Just that slight interruption in the blood supply to my brain had caused a massive stroke. How true the Bible is when it says we are ***“fearfully and wonderfully made”*** (Psalm 139:14).

Secondly, I asked the Lord to bring to my mind any person I needed to forgive, for any reason. I heard a preacher say once that the most futile occupation in the world is to be a doctor, because it is guaranteed that 100 percent of their patients will eventually die!

If it was my time to die, I didn’t want to stand before the Judge of all the earth holding a grudge against anyone. You see, Jesus ties God’s forgiveness directly to whether or not we forgive others. He said, ***“if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins”*** (Matthew 6:14-15).

A few days later my desire to forgive was tested when I learned that just after news got out about what had happened to me a few cowardly, nameless people had sent messages to my family (via the whacky world of social media websites), mocking my stroke and wishing that I would die. I can honestly say that when I heard this news I laughed out loud and immediately forgave those people from my heart. I figured if it was good enough

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*Cover picture: A man from the Tamang tribe in western Nepal. Approximately two-million Tamang people inhabit hundreds of villages through the Himalayas - the highest mountain range in the world. Most Tamang people have never heard the Gospel, although a small and vibrant church has emerged in recent years. Through the Asian Workers’ fund we are privileged to support several Asian evangelists who are reaching the Tamang people in Nepal.*



for the sinless Son of God to forgive His murderers as they nailed him to the cross, then the least I could do was try to emulate Him and forgive those poor souls. I laughed because I knew that whatever men might say or do to me is completely irrelevant.

Now, I realize that many Christians today think believers should have no enemies except spiritual ones. From the point of view of how we view others, I agree. But from the point of view of how others may view and treat us, the Scriptures are very clear, in countless places, that a host of enemies will oppose us. It would be easier if these enemies were spiritual only, but in our experience it is much harder when those spirits come at us through human bodies! Often when I am asked to give my testimony I say, "From the time I was 19 and decided to follow and serve Jesus Christ wholeheartedly, I would describe my life as a wonderful adventure with God, balanced by a steady accumulation of enemies! Hence the constant need to walk in forgiveness.

That night as I lay in my hospital bed I was greatly encouraged as I listened to an audio reading of Psalm 56:

*"Be merciful to me, my God, for my enemies are in hot pursuit; all day long they press their attack. My adversaries pursue me all day long; in their pride many are attacking me. When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise—in God I trust and am not afraid.*

*What can mere mortals do to me? All day long they twist my words; all their schemes*

*are for my ruin. They conspire, they lurk, they watch my steps, hoping to take my life.... Record my misery; list my tears on your scroll—are they not in your record? Then my enemies will turn back when I call for help. By this I will know that God is for me.*

*In God, whose word I praise, in the Lord, whose word I praise—in God I trust and am not afraid. What can man do to me?*

*I am under vows to you, my God; I will present my thank offerings to you. For you have delivered me from death and my feet from stumbling, that I may walk before God in the light of life."*

## Confident in my Destination

Over the next few days I lay in hospital, unable to move my left side. It was a special time in my life—somehow both horrible and glorious at the same time! I understood what the Apostle Paul meant when he wrote,

*"We do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:16-18).*

The grace of the Lord was extended to me, and I saw that He was also helping my family, who were coping fine. This encouraged me greatly.

God's Word became more precious to me. I realized how futile this world is, yet how good and loving God had been to me since I gave my life to Him as a teenager. He has never let me down, and has never left or forsaken me. He has overwhelmed me with one blessing after another. Even the worst and most difficult times with Jesus have been a million times better than the best experiences before I knew Jesus.

I was also acutely aware that if it was time for me to die and give an account of my life to God, that there was ABSOLUTELY NOTHING I could show or impress Him with. Not one thing I have ever done, said, or written will help me win favor with my Maker.

At the same time, I had complete, supernatural peace that I *am* a child of God, and that there is indeed one single thing I have that does impress the Almighty. That one thing is my faith and trust in THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST! It is all I or anyone will ever need, and the only way any person will ever enter heaven. The King of Kings is moved mightily by the only sacrifice He finds acceptable: The death of His beloved Son. If you or I plan to rely on our own goodness or works to enter heaven, we will be doomed!

Yes, I was confident in my eternal destination, but it was a confidence wholly based on the goodness of God, and not at all on myself.

If you are a follower of Jesus Christ, and you pursue holiness and righteousness, I hope you will be encouraged and not

fearful of death. God has exchanged the goodness of Jesus for our own hopeless lives, if we will only believe and give Him our own filthy rags in return. How can we not love such a wonderful Savior?!

Consider the following beautiful passage, (written *not* to everyone, but exclusively to those who have placed their trust in Jesus as Lord and Master of their lives):

***"If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: 'For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.'***

***No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord"*** (Romans 8:31-39).

## Calling for Help

In those early days I could only concentrate for a few minutes at a time before I needed to rest my brain.

I knew that we needed as much prayer support as possible, so although the nurses may not have liked it, I painstakingly typed an email message with my right index finger, summarizing what had happened and asking for prayer for my family and I. We sent it to friends and Asia Harvest supporters around the world. In part, my email said,

*“First and foremost I love Jesus, but I am not ashamed to say that I also love serving Him. He has given my life purpose and meaning.*

*Everything good that has ever come out of me has all been the doing of Jesus anyway.*

*Please pray God’s supernatural strength will empower me, Joy, and our sons Dalen and Taine. Pray we would be drawn closer to the heart of God than ever before, and Jesus Christ would be glorified though all this. I am motivated by the thought of kicking a ball and swimming in the lake with my sons again.*

*I am hoping and praying for a full recovery. I don’t think God is finished with me yet, and I would be incredibly thankful if He would allow this time to pass and let me once again serve Him. There are still 4,835 unreached ethnic groups in Asia waiting to hear about God’s plan of salvation. We only have this life to help reach them.*

*Please join me in praying that the words of Psalm 118:17 will become a reality in my life: **“I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done.”***

I am thankful to be part of the Body of Christ! We received hundreds of messages of support and encouragement. We were told many Christians were praying fervently for us.

News reached us that numerous house church leaders in China had begun to pray for us; and of prayer groups in Papua New Guinea, Russia, America, and many other parts of the world. One friend informed us that a gathering of 13,000 believers in South Korea paused their conference and cried out to God on our behalf. Even my dear friend Saeed Abedini took a moment out from his daily routine of being tortured in an Iranian prison to send a message of encouragement via his family.

We felt like unworthy recipients of all this attention, but we were so thankful for the reminder that we are part of God’s global family.

## God Performs a Miracle!

Please don’t ever believe that prayer is not powerful, or that God no longer performs miracles.

Almost as soon as people began to intercede, my mobility started to improve! At times we felt the tangible effect of all those prayers.

One of my siblings called to talk with me, and then phoned Joy to express his concern because I “sounded far too happy”!

The doctor told me I was “very lucky” and that he expected me to make a full

recovery, but that it could take one to two years.

Although my left arm and leg remained numb, I was able to move more every day.

**When I first arrived at the hospital I had to be wheeled around in my bed.**

**After a few days they began to push me around in a wheelchair.**

**A few days later I was able to shuffle around by myself with the help of a frame.**

**The frame was soon discarded and I was given a single crutch.**

A doctor came to see me one morning and said because I was progressing so well I was going to be transferred to a rehab facility in another city, where I would stay at least five to six weeks. I arrived there on June 12, just 14 days after the stroke. A short time later they took my crutch away because I was now able to walk around by myself!

Perhaps the greatest miracle was that my mind became as sharp as normal. I also had no trouble talking at all.

At one stage I was taken to see a psychologist, who put me through a series of mind and memory tests to see how much damage my brain had suffered.

I remember the confused look on the man's face as he struggled to keep up as my accurate answers came almost as quickly as he could ask the questions!

Just a few weeks earlier a doctor had informed me, "I am sorry to tell you that

half your brain has died. The left side of your body is paralyzed."

Please understand that none of this rapid improvement occurred because I am some kind of smart guy, or because I was 'courageous', or 'determined'. Not at all! This happened because the Living God heard the prayers of many of His children around the world, and it pleased Him to answer them.

One afternoon at the rehab facility I was asked to attend a group session with other patients who had suffered strokes and other brain injuries. I was shocked. Many of the others, including people much younger than me, were in terrible shape. Some couldn't lift their heads up or speak. Others didn't know their own names.

The doctors and nurses put my progress down to "good luck," but I knew it was all because of the power and grace of Jesus in my life. There are great benefits to serving God! He has declared, ***"On the day when I act,' says the Lord Almighty, 'they will be my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as a father has compassion and spares his son who serves him. And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not'" (Malachi 3:17-18).***

I had been told I would need to stay in the rehab facility at least 5 or 6 weeks, but I was discharged and went home to be with my family on June 26, just 14 days after my arrival there and less than a month after the stroke first occurred.

Although everything I have shared is true, I don't want to give the impression that it was all a 'walk in the park.'



There were some very tough times, especially in the first few weeks. Those who have suffered an injury or illness like this will know it can be very humiliating not to have control of your body. I needed help to do even the simplest of tasks such as going to the toilet, putting on a shirt or brushing my teeth.

The whole experience has given me greater compassion for those with physical or mental disabilities, and a tremendous respect for people who have dedicated their lives to provide care for others. If you know of such a person, please pray for them often.

### An Extended Break

As we write this newsletter I have been home about a month. I have continued to gradually improve, although not at the same rate as initially. My left leg and arm remain numb, but much better than they were. The greatest prayer need is for co-ordination to return between my brain and the two sides of my body. At the moment I can walk up and down stairs unaided, but I struggle with simple tasks that require both my hands, such as neatly folding a piece of paper in half, or typing with two fingers.

It has been a good time to take stock of my life and make plans for a less stressful future with less travel. I am not in a rush, and plan to take as long as necessary to rest and recover completely.

### The Ministry Carries On

One great blessing of the whole experience is how my wife and others stepped in and

took over my administrative workload at Asia Harvest. Together with our wonderful project leaders throughout Asia, the ministry continued to move forward fine without me.

In fact, they did such a good job that during the time I was on my back we printed and delivered more than 200,000 more Bibles to the house churches in China, and through the Asian Workers' fund we took on—or are in the process of taking on—about 130 new evangelists who are working among 60 or 70 different unreached people groups throughout Asia!

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share what the Lord has done in my life in recent months, and thank you for your prayer support.

May you be encouraged and strengthened in the knowledge that whatever storms and difficulties may come across your path, the Lord Jesus is able to calm the storm and help you through.

**I am glad to report that I am no longer the man with half a brain!** Our loving and all-powerful God has brought the dead half back to life and is in the processing of restoring me back to full health. May the Lamb of God receive all the glory!

*To the only God our Savior be glory,  
majesty, power and authority, through  
Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages,  
now and forevermore! Amen”  
(Jude 1:25).*

## Hidden Treasures

Our previous newsletter (May) was entitled “Why Jesus Has Yet to Return.” Everyone at Asia Harvest has continued to advance forward in our determination to take the Good News to the most remote and unreached areas of Asia.

There are still many parts of Asia that have been forgotten by both the world and the Church. For example, have you ever heard of the **Andaman & Nicobar Islands**? They consist of a long chain of 572 islands stretching across the Bay of Bengal from near the southern tip of Myanmar (Burma) almost to Indonesia. Only 38 of the 572 islands—which are officially administered by India—are permanently inhabited. Beautiful, pristine beaches await travellers who make it to these shores, but getting there is so difficult that few outsiders have ever visited.

When the 2004 Tsunami devastated many parts of Asia, the Indian military sent helicopters to the Andaman & Nicobar Islands in an attempt to bring relief to the native people. Some of the tribes are so untouched by the modern world that they didn’t understand the offer of help. The pilots were forced to withdraw after tribesmen armed with bows and arrows appeared and started firing at the helicopters!

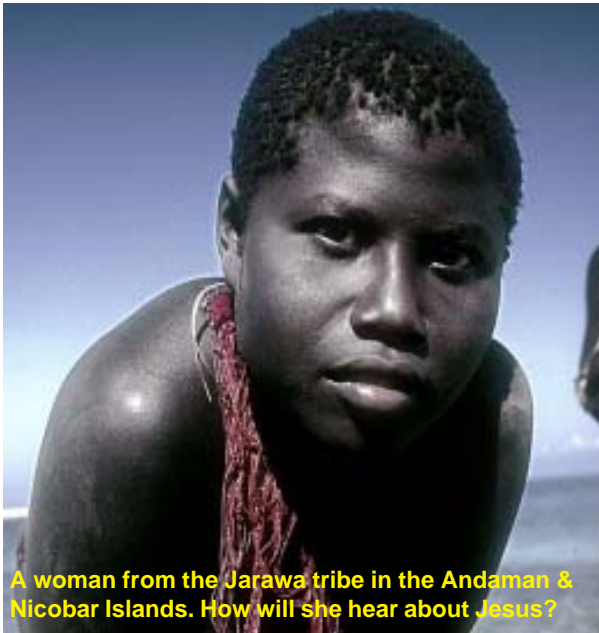
The 400,000 people who call these islands home are divided into dozens of ethnic groups.

It is believed people have lived on the Andaman & Nicobar Islands for at least 2,200 years. That means that when the Lord Jesus instructed His disciples to **“go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation”** (Mark 16:15), there were already people living on these isolated islands who needed to know His salvation. Two thousand years later

there are several Negroid tribes in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands who are still waiting to hear about Jesus. It is people and tribes like these that we long to reach, because Jesus died for them and longs to redeem them.

A tremendous opportunity exists for you to be part of this vision! **Would you prayerfully consider supporting one or more faithful Asian evangelists?** A monthly gift of \$25 (\$300 per year) to the **Asian Workers’ Fund** makes a tremendous difference. It allows the workers to carry out the work God has called them to.

It is a great privilege to be able to play a part in seeing this happen.



A woman from the Jarawa tribe in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. How will she hear about Jesus?

## ASIAN WORKERS' FUND

*Thanks to your support we are currently able to support 381 Asian evangelists working among 201 unreached tribes and ethnic groups.*



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The Communist nations of Laos and Vietnam are home to more than 250 different tribes, dozens of which had full Bibles or New Testaments translated into their languages prior to the arrival of Communism in 1975. Since then, these believers have been deprived of Bibles by the authorities. We are also providing God's Word to tribes in Myanmar (Burma), Cambodia, and other Southeast and South Asian nations as the need arises. **Each Bible costs \$2.70 to print and deliver.**

## LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

*Because of your partnership we are supporting 751 living martyrs.*



"A martyr is a Christian who chooses to suffer death rather than deny Christ or His work... One who sacrifices something very important to further the Kingdom of God and endures great suffering for Christian witness." (The Voice of the Martyrs)

The **Living Martyrs Fund** assists pastors and evangelists in China and Vietnam who are unable to work because of injuries or illness caused by persecution. They and their families face extreme poverty and hardship. Through a gift of **\$35 per month** you can help support one of these living martyrs. A prayer card is sent to every supporter of this project.

## PROJECT SMILE



*Your generous gifts have so far helped bring a smile to the faces of 12,549 children in Vietnam.*

**Project Smile** helps children from poor families in Vietnam who were born with disabilities such as cleft palates, cleft lips and club feet, as well as others who need operations for burns, cancerous growths and other conditions. The cost of helping a child varies depending on the kind of surgery required, but each gift received of **\$60 changes a child's life**. A laminated prayer card of a child helped through Project Smile is sent to all donors.

## ASIA DISASTER RELIEF FUND



*Transforming lives from ashes to beauty with God's love.*

Over the years Asia Harvest has provided relief assistance to the victims of natural disasters such as the earthquake in China and cyclone in Myanmar (Burma); the Tsunamis of Southeast Asia and Japan, and a host of other disasters in India, Afghanistan, Vietnam, and elsewhere. In addition to providing aid through medicine, tents, blankets, food and water, rebuilding homes etc., the Christians we partner with take every opportunity to share the Gospel, and thousands of people have come to know Jesus Christ. This long-term fund helps us respond immediately whenever a disaster strikes.





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# Asia Harvest



'Put in the Sickle, for the Harvest has Come!' (Mark 4:29)

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October 2013 - Newsletter #121



**The Other Side of China**  
**Where Countless Millions Wait to Hear**

# From the Frontlines

with Paul & Joy Hattaway

***“Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear” (Isaiah 65:24).***

The Lord Jesus never ceases to amaze us. On page 9 of our recent newsletter (August), we included a page entitled ‘Hidden Treasures’. We briefly mentioned the little-known tribes of the remote Andaman & Nicobar Islands, a string of islands flung across a vast expanse of the Indian Ocean. It was the first time we had ever mentioned those islands publicly. It is so difficult to reach the tribes there that people who even just try to visit them can be imprisoned for ten years or more by the Indian government. It remains to be seen what will happen to anyone who might attempt to proclaim the Gospel there. In our newsletter we asked you to pray, but before most people had even received the newsletter or started to pray, the Lord had already answered! When we realized what our God had done we were so excited we almost fell off our chairs! The very same week that our August newsletter was posted out, the Lord connected us to an indigenous Christian ministry based in the Andaman Islands. They have a plan to reach the people groups that we requested prayer for; including the very same Jarawa tribe we included a picture of in our newsletter. We hope for a long and fruitful partnership with that ministry, for the glory of the Name of Jesus. How true the Scripture at the top of this page is! Even before we call on the Lord He is able and willing to answer.



Now, why would the Almighty God be so interested in reaching those few small tribes stuck away in obscurity? Most believers would say it is because God loves all people and wants them to hear the Gospel. While this is true, we believe the reason why God is so keen to see Jarawa people saved is even greater than this.

If you read our May newsletter you might remember it was called ‘Why Jesus Has Yet to Return’. He has not yet come back to rule and reign over the nations because the work of the Gospel has not yet been completed. This might shock you, but it was never God’s intention that *every person* in the world would be saved. Although on one hand the Bible states that God does ***“not want anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance”*** (2 Peter 3:9), the Lord Jesus bluntly stated, ***“Small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it”*** (Matthew 7:14).

What, then, is so important about the small unreached Jarawa tribe, numbering just a few hundred people, and others like it throughout Asia and around the world?

Friends, we believe the Lord Jesus will not, indeed **cannot** return to this earth as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords until there are true followers of the Living God among the Jarawa people.

Jesus cannot come back until every people group has heard the Gospel, because He directly tied His return to the completion of the Great Commission. He declared, **“And this Gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations** [ethnic groups], **and then the end shall come”** (Matthew 24:14).

The Gospel of the kingdom of God has never been preached to the Jarawa people, or the Shompen, or the Onge tribe on those same isolated islands. For two thousand years the Lord has watched and waited for one of His children to share the way of salvation with these people groups, but today there are still no known Jarawa, Shompen or Onge followers of Christ.

This is the heart of God’s plan and purpose today. He is waiting for His disciples to obey what He commanded them to do two millennia ago. Do you ever hear this kind of teaching at your church on Sunday? If not, pray for God to remove the scales from your pastor’s eyes. There is nothing more important to God than this!

There are two main themes running throughout all the Scriptures and human history. The first of course, is Jesus Christ and His sacrifice. The second theme, however, is tragically missed by many preachers and believers. This is the theme of God’s great plan of salvation for every ethnic group in the world. It is a plan first seen in the book of Genesis, with the breakup of the human race at the Tower of Babel. God revealed the start of His master plan of salvation in His covenant with Abraham, **“that all peoples** [ethnic groups] **on earth will be blessed through you”** (Genesis 12:3). This wonderful theme continues throughout the Psalms and prophets, and then into the New Testament, reaching its climax in the final book of the Bible. In Revelation, the Apostle John recorded a remarkable vision of heaven that God permitted him to see. He wrote,

***“Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders.... He went and took the scroll from***

***Cover picture: A young Hui couple on their wedding day. The Hui are Chinese-speaking Muslims, the descendants of merchants and traders who first traveled down the Silk Road from Central Asia to settle in China more than a thousand years ago. Today, only a few hundred of the 15 million Hui people are followers of Jesus Christ. Most have never heard a thorough Gospel message. The heart of God is pained that groups like the Hui have not yet heard of the incredible sacrifice of His beloved Son.***





*the right hand of him who sat on the throne. And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb....And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth"* (Revelation 5:7-6, 8-10).

Two chapters later John recorded a similar awesome vision: *"After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding*

*palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: 'Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb'"* (Revelation 7:9-10).

This is incredible! In heaven there will be worshippers around the throne of the Lamb from the Jarawa, Shompen and Onge tribes. God has guaranteed it! Only when every single tribe, ethnic group and language group on earth has heard the Gospel and some have responded, will the harvest be ready to reap and the Lord will call an end to this sorry world system! Only then will the seventh angel sound his trumpet, *"and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: 'The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever'"* (Revelation 11:15).

Hallelujah! Does this excite you?

How sad that many Christians don't even know this mighty plan of God even exists! How tragic for their own lives and faith. No wonder so many Christians today feel their lives are empty and meaningless. They have never understood God's master plan, nor have they considered how they could invest their lives to help fulfil God's plans. Unfortunately many believers today are asleep and ignorant of God's plans, believing the lie that the Great Commission has already been completed. Many push off their responsibility to some "special" people like missionaries, so that they don't need to worry about such things. Over the years we can't count how many times we have been told, "Brother, there are plenty of lost people right around here for us to be concerned about those people over there."

We thank the Lord Jesus that His kingdom is expanding, and that one by one, the tribes, languages and ethnic groups of the world are gradually hearing about the marvellous plan of salvation that He alone has achieved through His death, burial and resurrection.

Over the years we have shared countless testimonies, even written books, about the amazing things God is doing in China and other parts of Asia. The Body of Christ has grown exponentially in many places, and it has been our great privilege to share some of these events with people. Many have said how their faith was encouraged by reading and hearing these testimonies.

There is a danger in sharing about all the wonderful things God has done, however. The danger is that people can easily slip into a wrong mindset and begin to think, "Well, if God is doing those kinds of things over there in China, they must be far better off than us, because we don't see things like that happening here."

While it is wonderful to hear about the incredible miracles taking place in China, keep in mind that it is a very large country, home to about one person out of five in the world. As a result, when we and our co-workers travel around China we find that most people we meet have either never heard of Jesus, or they have just heard a few surface details about Christianity in general. It is simply not true to say that China is on the verge of becoming a thriving Christian country!

Most estimates for the number of believers in China come in at about 6% or 7% Christian. We thank God for what He has done, but keep in mind this means about

93% of people in China have yet to believe in Jesus.

## Interview with Brother Matthew

In the remainder of this newsletter we would like to share the first part of an interview we conducted with Brother Matthew. He is a missionary living in an area of western China that is almost totally devoid of the light of the Gospel. Dozens of distinct unreached ethnic groups inhabit the region where he and his family serve.

**Asia Harvest:** *Matthew, thanks for taking time to share with us. Can you tell us a little about your background?*

**Matthew:** I first visited China as an 18-year-old in 2002. I returned in 2003, spending my first full year travelling almost non-stop (120+ cities) and learning Chinese. I married a year later, and we have been living and raising our family among the Muslims and Tibetans of western China ever since.

**Asia Harvest:** *Please describe the ethnic and cultural makeup in the region where you serve.*



**Matthew:** As in most of China, the largest cities in our region are predominantly populated by Han Chinese people. However, when you visit the smaller towns and villages, you will find millions of Muslims from a variety of ethnic groups (Hui, Salar, Dongxiang, etc.), and as you climb in altitude, millions more Tibetan Buddhists inhabit a vast expanse of land. The Tibetans are divided into dozens of sub-groups that speak different dialects.

*Asia Harvest: Many people have heard about the great revival in many parts of China. What are things like in your area?*

**Matthew:** One nearby region is home to seven different people groups that inhabit several connected valleys along the Yellow River. Even among the Chinese people there, **I have heard of just one Christian couple living in those valleys.**

So to put it bluntly, within a few hundred miles of our home there are many hundreds of mosques, Tibetan Buddhist monasteries, temples and shrines, and countless other traditional Chinese religious sites. Religion is alive and well here, but Christianity barely has any root at all. Not even the Chinese people in this region have been evangelized in any meaningful way.

I have visited a few scattered counties in our province where the Chinese church has spread to various villages. However, the majority of west and northwest China (numbering about 150 million people) has yet to experience revival like many places in central and eastern China.

The spiritual climate here is dire. In one

nearby prefecture inhabited by almost two million people, it is difficult to find even 1,000 baptized believers (most of these being part of one or two fellowships in the largest city). That's a single Christian for every 2,000 people (0.05%). Another nearby county is home to nearly a quarter of a million people, including a variety of Muslim groups. But from what I have personally seen, the Chinese there are just as ignorant of the Gospel as the Muslims are. I have heard of just two tiny groups of believers there, including one solitary lady who is being persecuted by her family, and must travel two hours each way just to attend the nearest church.

*Asia Harvest: Please describe for people who live in a "Christian" country what it is like when you speak with people in these areas about Christ.*

**Matthew:** It is something of a cliché to say that all unreached people have "never heard the name of Jesus". Most have at least heard of His Name, just as people in the West have heard something about Mohammed or Buddha. However, it is certainly accurate to say that the vast majority of unreached people have never heard the *Truth* about Jesus!

For example, Muslims believe Jesus was a great prophet who (emphatically!) did not die on a cross. Tibetans assume Jesus was a great spiritual "living Buddha", or a reincarnation of Buddha, who lived an exemplary life in another age and place. Many people are wary of Christianity because they assume all Westerners are Christians, and they associate Christianity with all of the sinfulness that is produced in the West and exported to the rest of the

world.

It is also misleading to assume that just because people's minds are devoid of knowledge about Christ that they must therefore be "ripe" to hear and believe the Gospel. Rather, people's minds are full of wrong knowledge about the Savior and those strongholds need to be torn down before a proper foundation can be laid. Just because someone might have "heard" of Jesus doesn't mean they have any understanding at all of the meaning of

Creation, the Cross, Resurrection, Judgement, Heaven, or Hell.

**Asia Harvest:** *Apart from the several unreached Muslim groups you have already mentioned, there are also hundreds of thousands of Tibetan people living in your region. How many churches exist among all the ethnic minority groups in the area where you serve?*

**Matthew:** Just one! I have heard of some





Tibetan believers who gathered together at a university for a couple of years, but that lasted only until they graduated and moved away from there. There are also rumoured to be a few small Bible studies or cell groups among a couple of the Muslim groups, but no healthy, growing, thriving church yet exists.

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*We will continue our interview with Brother Matthew in a future newsletter. In the meantime, please pray for his family and for the teeming unevangelized millions who surround them. Pray the Holy Spirit will give them strategies to effectively break through, so that God will bring about a harvest for His kingdom in all of China....*



Asia Harvest currently supports indigenous Asian evangelists working among most of the people groups mentioned in this newsletter. If you would like to support them, we invite you to do so through the *Asian Workers' fund*. A prayer card of your worker will be sent to every supporter of this project.

Brother Matthew and his family also need prayer and financial support to help them succeed in the important work the Lord has called them to. If you would like to support them, please add a note "for Brother Matthew" along with your gift and we will gladly send the full amount on to them.



## Latest News

For a number of years we have presented six main projects for people to support if they would like to. We have kept the number of projects at a manageable level so that people don't feel overwhelmed with choices. We have not felt the need to change our list of projects simply because they are all vitally strategic, and they cover almost all of the activities we are involved with throughout Asia anyway.

***From this month onward, we are changing the names of two of our existing projects,*** to better reflect the way they have grown over the years:

The Southeast Asia Bible fund has been renamed the **Asian Bible fund**. We have now printed the Word of God in 47 different languages through this project. Most of the languages have been in Southeast Asia, but in recent years we have helped in other needy regions too, such as in North Korea, the Indian Subcontinent, and Central Asia. This change of name better reflects the function of the project today, although the vision remains exactly the same—to provide the Scriptures to people throughout Asia who have no access to God's Word. Please note that one country where the Asian Bible fund doesn't apply to is China, as our **China Bible fund** will continue to operate as a totally separate project.

The second project with a change of name is the Asia Disaster Relief fund, which was first set up in the aftermath of the 2004 Tsunami that devastated much of Asia. This project has been greatly used by God to bring many people into His kingdom. However, instead of waiting for the next major natural disaster to strike somewhere in Asia for this project to come to the foreground each time, we have renamed it the **Persecution & Relief fund**, which accurately reflects the project's function. Over the years we have also used this project to provide emergency aid, both physical and spiritual, to Christian communities and families affected by persecution.



## ASIAN WORKERS' FUND

*Thanks to your support we are currently able to support **487** Asian evangelists working among **286** unreached tribes and ethnic groups.*



The **Asian Workers Fund** assists indigenous church-planting evangelists who are involved in strategic ministry in Asia. These servants of the Lord have committed their whole lives to the Gospel but are hindered by lack of finances. We only support evangelists/missionaries and not pastors, as we believe shepherds should be supported by the flocks they lead. You can help support these dedicated workers for **\$25 per month** each. A prayer card and occasional worker updates are sent to all regular donors of this project.

## CHINA BIBLE PRINTING

*Current Total: **7,158,318** Chinese Bibles distributed.*



We are partnering with house churches in China in a long-term project to provide Bibles for Christians. We receive countless requests for God's Word from church leaders throughout the country. These Bibles are distributed free of charge, equipping the Body of Christ and helping add fuel to the revival in China. **Each full Bible costs just \$1.80 to print and deliver.**

**A donor has offered Asia Harvest a "dollar for dollar" matching grant. For a period of time each donation we receive for Bibles will be doubled, so that two Bibles will be printed and delivered instead of one!**

## ASIAN BIBLE FUND



*Current Total: **334,528** Bibles printed in 47 languages*

Asia contain many ethnic groups where the people are deprived of God's Word; sometimes for decades. The **Asian Bible fund** provides the Scriptures in numerous languages throughout Southeast Asia, North Korea, the Indian subcontinent, and elsewhere.

The one country where the Asian Bible fund doesn't apply to is China, as our China Bible fund functions as a totally separate project. **Each Bible costs \$2.70 to print and deliver through the Asian Bible fund.**

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*Because of your partnership we are supporting 755 living martyrs.*



"A martyr is a Christian who chooses to suffer death rather than deny Christ or His work... One who sacrifices something very important to further the Kingdom of God and endures great suffering for Christian witness." (The Voice of the Martyrs)

The **Living Martyrs' Fund** assists pastors and evangelists in China and Vietnam who are unable to work because of injuries or illness caused by persecution. They and their families face extreme poverty and hardship. Through a gift of **\$35 per month** you can help support one of these living martyrs. A prayer card is sent to every supporter of this project.

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## PERSECUTION & RELIEF FUND



*Transforming lives from ashes to beauty with God's love.*

Over the years Asia Harvest has provided assistance to the victims of natural disasters that have struck Asia. In addition to providing aid through medicine, tents, blankets, food and water, rebuilding homes etc., the Christians we partner with take every opportunity to share the Gospel, and many people have come to know Jesus Christ. This project also provides physical and spiritual relief to Christian communities and families throughout Asia who have been affected by persecution.





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# Asia Harvest



‘Put in the Sickle, for the Harvest has Come!’ (Mark 4:29)

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December 2013 - Newsletter #122



## A Christmas Miracle in China

# From the Frontlines

with Hammie & Alti

*This guest editorial was written by Hammie and Alti, who are friends of Asia Harvest and dedicated missionaries working in some of the most remote and dangerous parts of Asia among unreached people groups with no Gospel witness.*

***“For we live by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7).***

In 1815 the leader of France, Napoleon, had conquered the whole of Europe except Britain. France fought against Britain in the Battle of Waterloo. If Napoleon had won, the whole of Europe would have been in slavery to him. The man who stood between him and victory was General Wellington, the leader of the British troops. The whole of Britain waited anxiously to hear news of the outcome of the battle. Would they be free, or would they become the slaves of Napoleon? To carry the news of the Battle of Waterloo to England, a ship used flags to signal a message to a man standing on land, who then signalled the news to another man on a hill, and so on across the country. The first word, “Wellington,” was signalled. The next word was “defeated.” Then a fog quickly descended and the message was interrupted as they couldn’t see what the man on the ship was signalling with his flags. Across England, people openly wept over the message: “Wellington defeated.” Then the fog lifted, and they could again see the signal flags on the ship. The communication continued with two extra words: “the enemy.” The whole message was: “Wellington defeated the enemy.” The people of Britain were immediately changed from being in deep despair to celebrating the victory.

Similarly, there was great sorrow when the body of Jesus was carried from the cross to the tomb. The signal seemed to say, “Jesus Christ defeated.” But three days later the “fog” lifted and the whole message was announced: “Jesus Christ defeated the enemy!” Through Christ we have complete victory over our enemies of sin, death, and Satan. We have new life, a glorious hope, and the certainty of our own resurrection one day. Let us not live by sight, for everything around us seems to say “Jesus Christ defeated.” Let us live according to our spiritual sight, for only then we will be able to see the whole message: “Jesus Christ defeated the enemy.”

# A Christmas Miracle in China

*As we near the end of another year, we would like to share one of our favorite testimonies with you — ‘A Christmas Miracle in China’. We hope you will take the time to read it, for we are sure it will be a great blessing and encouragement to you. May the Lord Jesus draw you and your loved ones closer to the Father’s heart than ever before this Christmas.*

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It was the greatest miracle that ever happened to Brother Duan, and he would not have experienced it had his bus not broken down. Travelling from a northern to a southern province of China one chilly December day, he happened to be passing through Henan Province when the engine of the bus expired in its futile battle with the cold.

On a whim, Duan trudged off through the fields, leaving the other passengers huddled inside the bus. He was a house

church leader in northern China. Now 77-years-old, he still had no home to call his own. The truth is, he was deeply depressed. He was on his way to mediate a dispute among church leaders and was weary of all the infighting that seemed to be harming the house churches. And he was lonely.

As he crossed the frozen field, Duan thought longingly of his beloved wife who had died years earlier. He wished she was alive to listen to him and give her sweet counsel. And then the thought of his little son came into his tired mind, and an even darker cloud settled over his heart.

He found a village and knocked on a door. A little cross was notched on the doorpost. “Is there anyone here who loves the Lord?” he asked. “I would love some fellowship tonight.”

The door was opened by a man in his fifties, and Duan was warmly welcomed inside. His feet were washed in a basin—the custom of welcoming a stranger to their home, and he was fed hot congee and steaming vegetables. He noticed that the family members were excited. It turned out they would be travelling to a neighboring town to hear a dynamic Bible teacher from



a large city. "What's his name?" asked Duan. "Brother Wang," they replied.

As they made their way to the meeting, they told Duan stories about this mysterious Brother Wang. It was clear they loved him dearly, and one of the men explained why. "We once held a training seminar here and heard the police were coming to arrest us. Brother Wang helped everyone escape, except our main pastor. When the police arrived, Wang dared to bargain with them. He offered to go to prison if our pastor, whose wife was eight months pregnant, would be allowed to go free. The officers accepted his terms, and Brother Wang spent the next three years in prison."

"How old is Brother Wang?" Duan asked. When told he was in his early 40's, Duan's face showed great pain. "What's the matter?" he was asked. "Are you ill from your trip?" "No, I'm not ill," he replied, "just very sad. I once had a son, whom I knew for just two months. He's dead now, but if alive he would have been 42 today. My wife called him the 'Christmas Child' since he was born at Christmas time. I called him 'Isaac,' because we had despaired for so long of having a child."

There was silence as they rode in the open cart under the stars. Brother Duan told the incredible story of how he and his wife had been evangelists in the 1950's. They refused



to join the government-approved Three-Self church, and an unbeliever named Wu kept accusing them of political and criminal offenses. It was only a matter of time before they were imprisoned or killed, but what would happen to their baby boy?

One night, Duan's wife heard a strong voice in a vision, saying, "Give your son to your enemy." Knowing nothing about this, Duan read Genesis 22:2 the following morning: ***"Take your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you."***

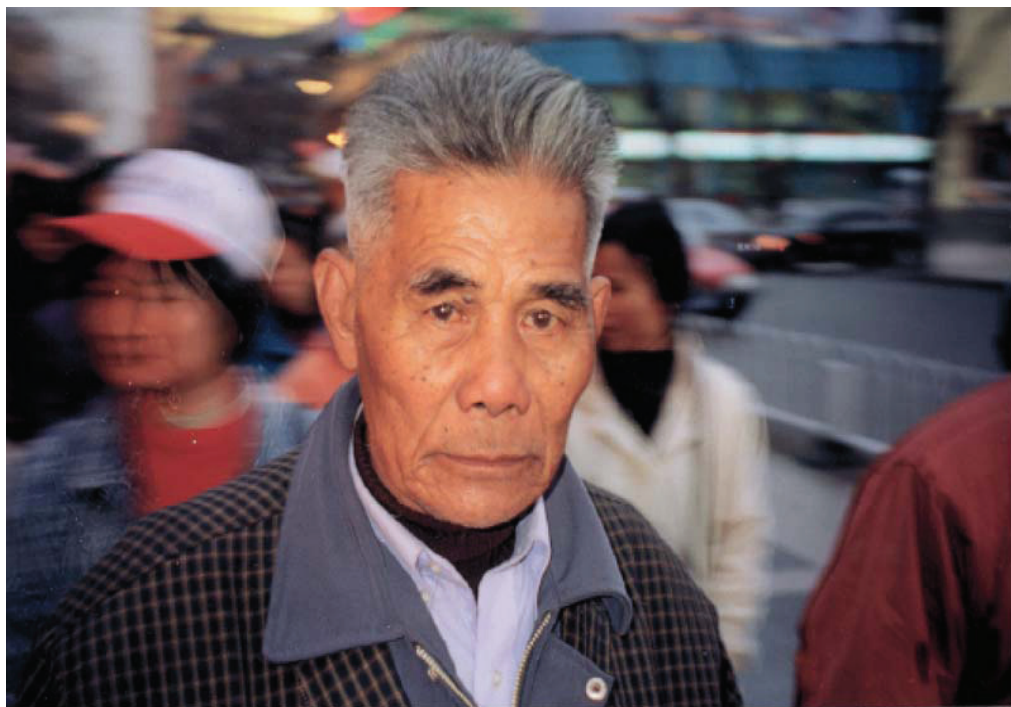
Sharing their impressions, the couple decided on a course of action that had caused Duan to wince in pain every day

since. They gave their boy to Wu and his wife—who was childless—even as Wu arranged for the couple's arrest.

It wasn't until 1978, when Duan was released from prison, that he learned what had happened to his wife and son. She had died in the terrible famine of 1958, and his son had disappeared along with the Wu family under the rubble of a devastating earthquake in 1975. Said Duan as the rickety cart approached the meeting place, "God judged me for being so irresponsible with my little son." As they arrived at the place where the evangelist was to speak, a crowd of 200 people were already packed into the house. Like many others, Duan had to sit in the courtyard and listen to the teacher through an open window.







When Brother Wang began preaching, Duan felt a terrible shock. It was like hearing himself! He began to tremble with fear. Even the phrases the teacher used sounded familiar. Confused, he staggered up to the window to see the preacher, causing a commotion as he fell over people. The preacher stopped, and there was a moment of shocked silence as the two stared at each other. The crowd was hushed as they realized the amazing physical likeness between the two men.

"I'm sorry for interrupting your excellent message," Duan began. "You see, I had a son who would be your age right now. If he had lived, he would have looked and sounded just like you."

Brother Wang began to tremble violently. Suddenly, his legs buckled beneath him,

and he had to be caught before he fell to the floor. Clutching his pounding chest, he sobbed, "Are you Daddy Duan?"

Everyone wept as father and son were reunited. The preacher told how he had indeed been brought up by Wu, who was so impressed by Duan's selfless act that he had become a strong Christian.

"I'm not your father," Wu used to say to him. "Your real father is a great man of God, full of grace and love. He gave you to me, and I give you all my love and the encouragement to put God first, just like your real dad would have done."

Wang's adopted parents had moved away from the earthquake zone before the tragedy, but both had died of cancer in their 60's. Wang became an evangelist and tried to find his real father, but Duan had changed

his name so many times to avoid arrest that he had proved untraceable.

As father and son continued to hug and weep, the elder of the church stood up and declared, "It's December. We have seen our sermon tonight: Christ came into the world to save sinners—that is the essence of Christmas. Just as Duan handed his only son into the care of his enemy, so God handed over His own Son to us sinners. Let us rejoice in their reconciliation and ours, too."

Have you given your heart and life to Jesus? If not, please pray now. Ask Jesus to forgive all of your sins and come into your heart to take control of your life. If you are a believer already, please think of the incredible sacrifice God made so that you can have life. May we not be unthankful like nine of the ten lepers who didn't bother thanking Jesus after He healed them of their horrible disease (see Luke 17:11-19).

Regardless of how difficult our lives become, we should never forget to thank the Lord Jesus for His countless mercies and blessings—we should even thank him for the very air we breathe. Can you imagine

what this world, and your life, would be like if God had never sent His beloved Son to rescue our broken and evil world?

*"In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.*

*And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*

(Philippians 2:5-11)

## CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS FROM ASIA HARVEST



As this is our final newsletter for 2013, we want to thank you for your prayers, encouragement and support throughout the year. We pray the risen Jesus Christ will truly be part of the Christmas and New Year period for you and your family. Next year we hope, by God's grace, to continue serving the Church in Asia and we invite you to partner with us to see this happen. God bless you!

# CHINA BIBLE MAP



## Bibles Delivered by Province:

|                  |         |
|------------------|---------|
| 1 Heilongjiang   | 712,385 |
| 2 Anhui          | 717,385 |
| 3 Henan          | 573,561 |
| 4 Inner Mongolia | 655,950 |
| 5 Zhejiang       | 558,594 |
| 6 Shandong       | 512,682 |
| 7 Jilin          | 367,180 |
| 8 Shanxi         | 310,439 |
| 9 Gansu          | 276,653 |
| 10 Jiangsu       | 251,749 |
| 11 Sichuan       | 220,915 |
| 12 Liaoning      | 227,898 |
| 13 Shaanxi       | 205,842 |
| 14 Hebei         | 206,262 |
| 15 Hubei         | 190,012 |
| 16 Guangxi       | 208,674 |
| 17 Xinjiang      | 169,314 |
| 18 Chongqing     | 159,110 |
| 19 Qinghai       | 170,256 |
| 20 Shanghai      | 160,512 |
| 21 Jiangxi       | 187,229 |
| 22 Hainan Island | 109,254 |
| 23 Fujian        | 104,663 |
| 24 Guangdong     | 64,627  |
| 25 Beijing       | 58,197  |
| 26 Yunnan        | 28,530  |
| 27 Hunan         | 11,819  |
| 28 Guizhou       | 9,680   |
| 29 Ningxia       | 5,180   |

**TOTAL 7,434,949**

Thanks to the grace of God and your prayers and generous support, Asia Harvest recently passed the milestone of 7 million Chinese Bibles printed and delivered to the house churches in China. Our coworkers provide detailed reports, which allow us keep track of every Bible we print and to create this distribution map. On behalf of all the grateful believers in China, thank you and God bless you!

## ASIAN WORKERS' FUND

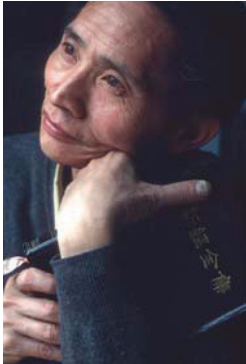
*Thanks to your support we are currently able to support 591 Asian evangelists working among 377 unreached tribes and ethnic groups.*



The **Asian Workers Fund** assists indigenous church-planting evangelists who are involved in strategic ministry to Asian unreached people groups in Asia. These servants of the Lord have committed their whole lives to the Gospel but are hindered by lack of finances. We only support evangelists/missionaries and not pastors, as we believe shepherds should be supported by the flocks they lead. You can help support these dedicated workers for **\$25 per month** each. A prayer card and occasional updates are sent to all regular donors of this project.

## CHINA BIBLE PRINTING

*Current Total: 7,434,949 Chinese Bibles distributed.*

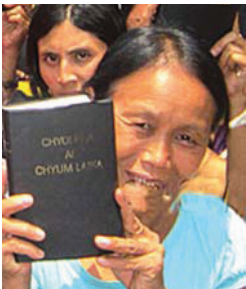


We are partnering with house churches in China in a long-term project to provide Bibles for Christians. We receive countless requests for God's Word from church leaders throughout the country. These Bibles are distributed free of charge, equipping the Body of Christ and helping add fuel to the revival in China. **Each full Bible costs just \$1.80 to print and deliver.**

**A donor has offered Asia Harvest a "dollar for dollar" matching grant. For a period of time each donation we receive for Bibles will be doubled, so that two Bibles will be printed and delivered instead of one.**

## ASIAN BIBLE FUND

*Current Total: 377,824 Bibles printed in 48 languages*



Asia is home to many ethnic groups where the people have been deprived of God's Word, sometimes for decades. The **Asian Bible fund** provides the Scriptures in numerous languages in Southeast Asia, North Korea, the Indian subcontinent, and elsewhere. The one country where the Asian Bible fund doesn't apply to is China, where our China Bible fund functions as a separate project. **Each Bible costs \$2.70 to print and deliver through the Asian Bible fund.**



## LIVING MARTYRS' FUND

*Because of your partnership we are supporting 747 living martyrs.*



"A martyr has been defined as "a Christian who chooses to suffer death rather than deny Christ or His work... One who sacrifices something very important to further the Kingdom of God and endures great suffering for Christian witness."

The **Living Martyrs' Fund** assists pastors and evangelists in China and Vietnam who are unable to work because of injuries or illness caused by persecution. They and their families face extreme poverty and hardship. Through a gift of **\$35 per month** you can help support one of these living martyrs. A prayer card is sent to every supporter of this project.

## PROJECT SMILE



*Your generous support has so far helped bring a smile to the faces of 12,710 children in Vietnam.*

**Project Smile** helps children from poor families in Vietnam who were born with disabilities such as cleft palates, cleft lips and club feet, as well as others who need operations for burns, cancerous growths and other conditions. The cost of helping a child varies depending on the kind of surgery required, but each gift of **\$60 changes a child's life**. A laminated prayer card of a child helped through Project Smile is sent to all donors.

## PERSECUTION & RELIEF FUND



*Transforming lives from ashes to beauty with God's love.*

Over the years Asia Harvest has provided assistance to the victims of natural disasters that have struck Asia. In addition to providing aid through medicine, tents, blankets, food and water, rebuilding homes etc., the Christians we partner with take every opportunity to share the Gospel, and many people have come to know Jesus Christ. This project also provides physical and spiritual relief to Christian communities and families throughout Asia who have been affected by persecution.



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